



CITY OF SEQUIM

News November 2014



Upcoming Public Hearings

November 10 —1) 2015 Budget Revenue Sources:
Fee Ordinance and Property Tax Levy
2) 2015 Budget—3) 2015 TBD Budget

November 24—1) Final Hearing on 2015 Budget
and Adoption
2) Final Hearing on 2015 TBD Budget and Adoption

City Offices Will be Closed on Tuesday, November 11

In observation of Veteran's Day, and
Thursday & Friday, November 27 & 28
For the Thanksgiving Holiday

City Council Reviews Proposed 2015 Budget

The 2015 proposed budget was presented to the Sequim City Council by City Manager Steve Burkett at a special meeting on September 29, 2014.

The budget is the proposed financial plan for the upcoming calendar year and is focused on the maintenance of current service levels within the constraints of City resources. The proposed budget reflects balanced revenues and expenses in the General Fund and maintains reserve levels within the adopted fund balance policies.

The major capital project of 2015 will be the completed construction of the new Civic Center. The proposed budget is strained by the overlap of current rent and maintenance of facilities with the mortgage payment already in effect for the new facility. The Civic Center project remains on budget and for scheduled completion mid-year 2015.

In 2013, the City commissioned master plan updates for our Water and Sewer systems and a study of utility rates that indicated the needs for annual revenue increases of 4% to maintain service levels and the renovation of an aging system. The proposed budget includes the rate increases and implementation of rate structure changes to allocate the proposed increases in an equitable and consistent fashion. These rate increases, while minimal, are important to maintain the financial health of utility operations as well as to meet current and future debt service requirements and maintain target reserve levels. (Please see related article on Pg.2 .) The budget proposes the continuation of a low income discount policy which reduces utility bills for those who qualify. The budget also proposes the 1% property tax increase allowed by law.

The overall operating budget for the City is \$16,067,589, this includes all City funds. Opposite are charts that display where the City's General Fund revenue comes from and how the monies are distributed through City departments.

The City Council will continue to review the budget through November and citizens are encouraged to attend those sessions. To review the proposed budget online, visit www.sequimwa.gov.

Meeting Dates & Locations

City Council Regular Meeting 2nd & 4th Monday
Transit Center 6:00 p.m.

City Council Study Session 2nd & 4th Monday
Transit Center (when required) 5:00 p.m.

Planning Commission Next Meeting November 18
Transit Center

Parks and Recreation Board 2nd Tuesday 6:30 p.m.
PW—615 N. 5th Ave.

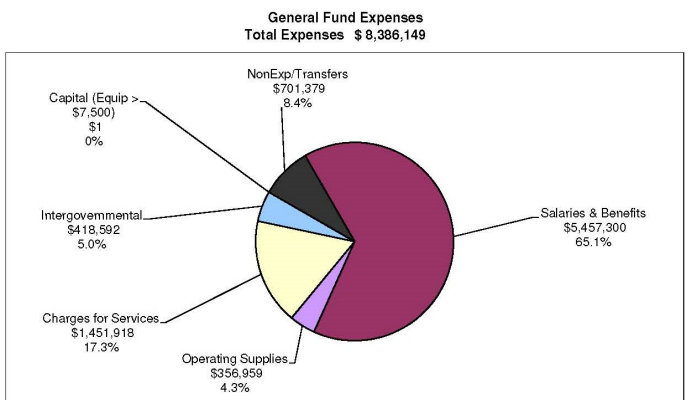
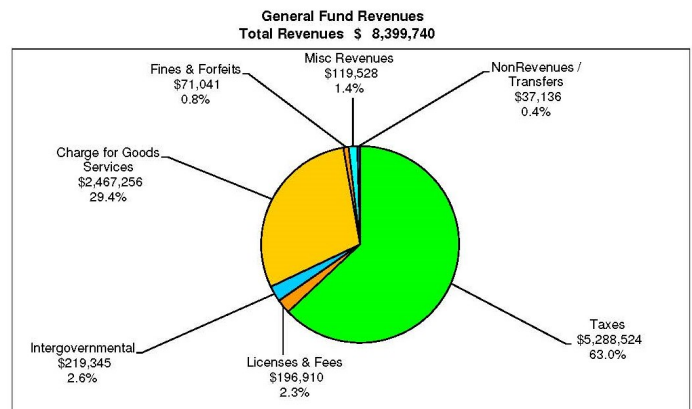
Lodging Tax Advisory Comm. Quarterly—Next Meeting
Transit Center Conf. Room December 12 10:00 a.m.

Arts Advisory Commission 3rd Tuesday 8:30 a.m.
Transit Center Conf. Room

Budget Calendar

November 10—Public Hearing on Property Tax, Revenues, Fees

November 24—City Council Adopts 2015 Budget & Property Tax
Levy, Revenues, Fees, and Utility Rates





CITY OF

SEQUIM News

November 2014

Crews Work to Install Roofing on New Civic Center



Construction crews are working on installing the roof membrane and metal roof on the Civic Center. The building should be enclosed and dry by mid-November.

To keep the community informed of progress on the Civic Center Project, the City is posting weekly updates to the City of Sequim website www.sequimwa.gov.

Please contact City Engineer David Garlington at 683-4908 or dgarlington@sequimwa.gov with questions.

Notice of Utility Rate Structure Changes

The Sequim City Council recently approved a Utility Rate Structure Ordinance which will affect your utility bill beginning January 1, 2015. These changes are an effort to more equitably balance the cost of the Utilities with those customers who utilize most of the service and resource. They also move the City towards providing an incentive for customers to conserve and have more control over their individual utility bill.

One change that will significantly impact a Single or Multi Family Residential bill is the lowering of the volume tier price break to 600 cubic feet (cf) per month instead of 800cf. This means that the higher volume price will be applied to all consumption over 600cf per month. It also means that a customer whose average WINTER WATER usage (November through April) is greater than 600cf per month will be moved to the higher sewer base rate for the following year. This is an increase of \$9.23 per month. Individual customers have the opportunity to avoid this increase by controlling their winter water use beginning in November.

As a whole, the adopted structure changes will mean less than a 3% increase in utility bills for most of the City's residential customers. Commercial and public authority customers, as larger users of the utilities, are likely to see significantly higher increases.

Please call the Utility Billing Department at 683-4139 for additional information about your specific utility bill. A more detailed letter is being mailed to all utility customers in the near future and will be posted to the City's website @ www.sequimwa.gov.

"Coffee with the Mayor"

Sequim residents can meet informally with Sequim Mayor Candace Pratt on Thursdays, November 6 & 20, at the Mariner Cafe located at 609 W. Washington Street, at 8:30 a.m.



The Mayor will be at a different published location each month to meet with anyone who wants to chat, ask questions, express a concern, or make a comment about the City or the community. Please contact Candace Pratt at 582-0114 or cpratt@sequimwa.gov with questions.

Sign Up for On-Line Utility Bill Pay

Did you know you can pay your utility bill on-line with an e-check, debit card, or credit card? Visit the City's website www.sequimwa.gov, stop by the City Finance Office at 609 W. Washington St., Suite 17, call 360-683-4139 or email util-pay@sequimwa.gov to learn more about how to sign up. And there is no fee for this service!

City of Sequim Animal Control



Did you know that City of Sequim has an Animal Control Officer (ACO)? Our ACO responds to calls on stray pets, barking or aggressive dogs, loose animals and other animal-related contacts. If you are a pet owner or have livestock that is allowed in the city, it is important to know the City's animal control regulations (see Title 6 of the Municipal Code). Annually, the City budgets about \$1,000 each month for ACO activities, and these are costs shared by all who pay taxes in the City, not by those who possess the animals that require ACO services. There are ways to help reduce these costs to everyone as well as improve chances of a lost animal being returned to its owner.

City Animal Control encourages owners to have their pets spayed or neutered to reduce unwanted litters and the number of abandoned pets needing homes. Sequim requires that dogs be licensed, and cats are requested to be licensed voluntarily. License fees for spayed or neutered pets are significantly lower. Licenses are purchased through the Sequim Police Department. While rabies vaccinations are not required when purchasing a City license, State law dictates that pets be vaccinated for rabies. Failure to license your dog or to maintain a current rabies vaccination could lead to a civil infraction with a fine up to \$250.00 for each violation.



The City code requires that dogs outdoors be secured by a leash if outside a fenced area. However, dogs and other pets do on occasion escape the safety of their fenced yards – and collars get separated, tags get lost. Micro-chipped pets have a permanent identification, allowing the ACO to return lost pets quickly and avoid a trip to the local Humane Society. The City of Sequim pays a fee of \$120.00 for each animal – rabbit or Great Dane – taken to the Humane Society, and owners are charged a fee for reclaiming their animal. Micro-chipping is not expensive for a loved pet.

For further information about Animal Control, please contact Lisa Hopper at the Department of Community Development, 360-683-4908. If you have lost a pet or found one, call the non-emergency number for the Sequim Police Department at 360-683-7227.